

### REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Zhadanov in view of the patent to Smith.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Zhadanov in view of the patent to Pinkerton.

After carefully considering the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of the claims over the art, applicant has canceled the original claims and submitted a new set of claims 10-14, with claim 10 which is the broadest independent claim on file.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims currently on file clearly and patentably distinguish the present invention from the references applied by the Examiner against the original claims.

Claim 10 specifically defines that the connecting element has a first portion with an opening having a diameter greater than the outer

diameter of the tubular element and which is located behind a shoulder of the tubular element, while the second portion of the connecting element has an inner thread screwable with the outer thread of the water passage.

Turning now to the references and in particular to the patent to Zhadanov, it can be seen that this reference does not disclose a connecting element connected to the tubular element with one end allowing the device to be turned around an axis of the tubular element and the other end having an interior of the threaded section. This was admitted by the Examiner in the Office Action.

The patent to Smith and the patent to Pinkerton which were applied against the original claims in combination with the patent to Zhadanov also do not teach such a connecting element which has a first portion having the diameter exceeding the outer diameter of the tubular element and located behind the shoulder of the tubular element, and the second portion which is screwable on an outer thread of the tubular passage. Thus, it is believed that any combination of the references would lead only to such a construction which would also not include the features of the current claim 10. Claim 10 should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

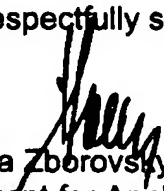
Claims 13 and 14 include the features of claim 10 and therefore also define the above mentioned features of the first portion of the connecting element having an inner diameter exceeding the outer diameter of the tubular passage and located behind the shoulder of the tubular passage and a second portion having an inner thread screwable on the outer thread of the water passage, and at the same time they define that the first portion and the second portion of the connecting element extend perpendicular to one another and the inner diameter of the second portion is greater than the inner diameter of the first portion of the connecting element. These features of the present invention are also not disclosed in the patents to Zhadanov and also are not disclosed in the patents to Smith and Pinkerton. Therefore any combination of the references would lead only to such a construction which would also not include the features of claims 13 and 14.

It is therefore believed that claims 13 and 14 should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art not only because they depend on the presumably allowable claim 10 but also because they contain the patentable subject matter per se.

Reconsideration and allowance of present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-243-3818).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Request for Extension of Time

Please extend the time for  
response by 1 month and  
charge to 26-0085.

